



**EL PASO PARKS & RECREATION DEPT
NATIONS TOBIN SPORTS CENTER
YOUTH FOOTBALL RULES & REGULATIONS
2014 Fall Season**

(Revised 7/7/2014)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The N.C.A.A. Rules and Regulations will govern play for the EL PASO PARKS & RECREATION youth football program. If the following rules interfere with NCAA, these rules will supersede those of the NCAA.
 - a.) A copy of the N.C.A.A. rules can be found on the internet using the following link
<http://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/FR14.pdf>
2. All parents are required to attend a parent training session in order for their son/daughter To participate in any City sanctioned athletic event or on any city ball field.

II. ORGANIZATION

1. The El Paso PARKS & RECREATION will be the sole governing body and administrators of this program.
2. Coaches for the teams shall be adults interested in the promotion of sportsmanship and teamwork. All coaches must be certified through El Paso PARKS & RECREATION. Any Head Coach who knowingly allows an individual to coach that is not certified will be held accountable. All coaches must wear their ID card on their sleeve or front of body and must be visible. All coaches must fill out and return a 1) Consent for background check 2) Coaches Application Form. Any coach not turning both forms in will not be allowed to coach till paper work has CLEARED and the coach has received his coaching badge! Cost of background checks will be \$40.00 plus \$5.00 for ID if comes back CLEARED.
3. Certification classes will be held during the coaches meetings. At no other time will they be held.
4. All parents must attend a Parent Training Class in order for their son/daughter to participate in the football program. No Class No Play!!
5. There are 6 areas of the City where games are played: Westside, Northeast, Lower Valley and Eastside. There will be four age groups: Mighty Mites: 5-7 years old; Minors: 8-9 years old; Intermediates: 10-11years old; Majors: 12-13 years old
6. There is a grace period of 10 minutes for each game. Once 11 players have arrived, the game will start immediately.
7. No reschedules are allowed!!

III. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. The child must be (5-7) years old for Mighty Mites, (8-9) years old for Minors, (10-11) years old for Intermediates and (12-13) year old for Majors on or before Sept.01, 2014.
2. 4 years old are allowed to participate with the Mighty Mites Div only if they turn 5 yrs on or before Sept. 01, 2014.
3. 7 yrs old turning 8 yrs on Sept. 01, 2014 on or before must play with the Minors (8-9).
4. 9 yrs old turning 10 yrs on Sept. 01, 2014 on or before must play with the Intermediates (10-11).
5. 11 yrs old turning 12 yrs on Sept. 01, 2014 on or before must play with the Majors (12-13).
6. 13yrs old turning 14yrs on or before Sept.01, 2014 CAN NOT PLAY with the majors (12-13).
7. All players must have a City of El Paso parks and Recreation issued Digital ID current card. We will accept the following as proof of age: Government issued Birth Certificates, Military ID's, School Demographics, and Pass Ports (old ID will work if not more than 2 years old). NO HOSPITAL BIRTH CETIFICATES, NO BAPTISM CERIFICATES OR MEDICARE PAPERWORK IS ALLOWED. ID's will cost \$5.00. Players must have ID's before their first game. Parents must show a current Parent Class Card in order for any player to obtain ID before they play in a game. ID schedule at Nations Tobin and Acosta Sports Centers: Monday – Friday 11:00am –7:45pm, Saturday and Sunday Closed
8. Player IDs will be checked prior to every game.
9. If an illegal player is discovered on any roster, the Head Coach, player, and the parents will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action as deemed by the Youth Football Coordinator. If found that anyone knew about the Illegal player, all involved will be subject to discipline from penalty matrix from any City of El Paso sanctioned event or a possible ban for life.
10. Any games in which an illegal player participates in will be forfeited.

IV. FIELD

1. The field will be 80 yards long, with 10 yard end zones for Mighty Mites, Minors and Intermediate Divisions and 100 yards long for Major Division.
2. Cheerleaders will be in the end zones closest to their teams.
3. Parents need to be seated or standing directly in front of their team across the field. The 40 yard marker will be the separation line for parents but could be adjusted by City staff. Parents are not allowed to stay with the down markers and move on each play. Parent(s) not adhering to these markings will be required to leave.

V. TIME ELEMENTS



1. Quarters will be 8 minutes long.
2. Half times will be 5 minutes long with one (1) minute intervals in between the 1st/2nd quarters and 3rd/4th quarters.
3. Teams will be allowed three 60 second time outs per half.
4. There will be a ten (10) minute grace period for every game. A minimum of eleven (11) Players must be present.
5. If a team is required to use 10 minute grace period, that team will forfeit 2 timeouts, 1 timeout for each half
6. Once a team has 11 players, regardless of position a player plays, the game will start immediately or game will be forfeited.
7. Official time and score will be kept by the officials.

VI. PLAYING RULES

1. In the Mighty Mites Div and Minor Division, there are NO kickoffs. Ball will be put in play at the 30 yard line.
In the Intermediate Division, the kickoff will take place from the 30 yard line.
2. After a safety, the team who gave up safety will kick off or punt from its 20 yard line.
3. In the Mighty Mites Div and Minor Division, team scoring the safety will put ball in play at their own 30 yard line.
4. There are no 15 yard penalties!!!
5. After a touchback the ball will be put in place at the 20 yard line.
 - a.) A kick off that goes out-of-bounds will result in the receiving team putting the ball in play at their 30 yard line, where the ball goes out-of-bounds or have kicking team re-kick.
 - b.) In the Mighty Mites Div and Minor Division, teams can call for a free punt on any down. There must be at least 6 defensive players on the line of scrimmage. The ball becomes dead where it first touches the ground on the air or on a muff and ball belongs to receiving team. A punt caught on the fly can be returned and if fumbled ball becomes live.
6. In the Mighty Mites Div and Minor Division.
 - a.) The nose guard cannot line up directly over the center on defensive line.
 - b.) The defensive player can line up in the gaps, but CAN NOT engage the center and must engage the guard or the gap.
 - c.) Players cannot get a running start to the center.
7. There must be 11 players on the field at all times.

ALL DIVISIONS - NO DOWN FIELD BLOCKING BELOW THE WAIST

- a.) Mighty Mites, Minors and Intermediates 10yrd penalty
- b.) Majors 15yrd penalty
7. TIES: Games ending in ties will use the following tie-breaker:
 - a.) Coin flip will be done for offense or defense.
 - b.) Ball will be placed on 10 yard line.
 - c.) Each team will have four downs to score or advance as far as possible.
 - d.) If Team A doesn't score, Team B must play all four downs unless it scores.
 - (a) Turnovers will stop possession.
 - (b) Score will stop possession
 - (c) Turn over on Downs will stop possession
 - e.) Team that scores more than opponent wins game.
 - f.) If the Team A scores in overtime, they must go for the 2 point conversion. If the Team B scores to tie it they must go for the 2 point conversion.
 - g.) If the game is still tied after both teams score, then one last series of downs for both teams will be played.
 - h.) If neither team scores, team advancing the farthest will win game (1 point). The chains will be used to measure the distance.
 - i.) During Playoffs team must outscore opponents in overtime to win, no penetrations rule
8. When one team goes ahead by 30 points, a "running clock" will be used.
9. If a team goes up by 36 points in the game.
 - a.) In the 1st Half
 - (a) "Running Clock" will be use to finish half
 - (b) If still up by 36 at half time, game will be called.
 - b.) In the 2nd Half
 - (a) Losing team must score on their next possession or game is called
11. Mighty Mites Division:
 - Weight Limit for carrying the ball, players needs to be 75 pounds or less (City will provide a sticker to add it to helmet)
 - All kids must be weighed and verified at Nations Tobin prior to play
 - Dates and times for Weight-In: At Nations Tobin Center Only Mon – Thursday 11:00am-7:00pm
 - Players cannot be weighed in until coach has turned in an official team roster to Nations Tobin Staff
 - There's no weight scales on the fields.
 - Any player carrying the ball without a City sticker, will be declared ineligible player and coaches will be subject to a disciplinary actions if caught.
 - Only One Coach per team with a valid ID will be at the field coaching the team



- Ball size for the Mighty Mites will be size 5

12. New NCAA Rules

- a.) Helmet coming off during a play - player must leave the field for at least one play, immediately. Options, player can be saved by a timeout. If team has no replacements, the timeout is automatic. If the helmet is lost due to a penalty, (e.g. facemask) player does not have to leave game unless injury occurs).
- b.) Targeting
 - No player shall target and initiate contact against an opponent with the crown (top) of his helmet.
 - No player shall target and initiate contact to the head or neck area of an defenseless opponent with the helmet, forearm, hand, fist, elbow or shoulder.

VII ROSTERS/PARENT PERMISSION SLIPS/ID CHECKS

1. Rosters and parent permission slips must be turned in by August 22nd, 2014. No Exceptions! Even if you have paid the registration fee and do NOT turn in a roster and at least 11 parent permission slips, your team will NOT be put on the schedule for any of the season. All players MUST have a PPS on file here at Nations Tobin BEFORE the child plays in a game.
2. Changes to roster may be made up till your 3rd game. Once you play your 3rd game, you are not allowed to add players.
3. Before every game the players' IDs will be checked by a site supervisor, community service person, or scorekeeper. At any time, a site supervisor may ask for a player's ID, if you are NOT able to provide one, that game will be a forfeit to the offending team. Site Supervisor may pick up ID to verify age at the school. It will be returned promptly if no problems occur.
4. If a player's name appears on more than one roster, the player must play for team for the team which he played in a game first.
5. A PLAYER MAY NOT CHANGE TEAMS ONCE THAT PLAYER HAS PLAYED FOR THAT TEAM. THIS RULE CANNOT BE APPEALED. Examples are a disagreement between a parent and the coach, your child playing on a team with a large number of kids and not having the chance to play.

VIII TYPE OF LEAGUE

1. This is a recreation/competitive league.
3. Division champs will be determined by won-loss record.
4. ALL players will wear a colored mouth piece at all times while playing.
5. No tinted or smoked face shields and sun glasses are allowed. We must be able to see player's eyes clearly for safety. NO EXCEPTIONS!!

IX. CONDUCT OF COACHES, PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS

- A.) Unsportsmanlike conduct directed toward any league official, game official, player, coach and/or spectator will not be tolerated and will be penalized as follows:
 1. First Offense: Ejection from game, suspension for two (2) WEEKS including 2 to 4 games and/or forfeiture of game. If you coach for teams in Minors, Intermediates, and Majors then you will be suspended from ALL THREE TEAMS' games for 2 games. Any player, coach, team staff, or spectator ejected from a game must leave the field and park surrounding the playing field within three (3) minutes of ejection. Anyone not complying within the 3 minutes of being ejected will have his or her team's game forfeited. Anyone who has been ejected and returns to the playing field or surrounding area, will be charged with trespassing and be subject to arrest by El Paso Police Department and their TEAM WILL FORFEIT THE GAME.
 2. Second Offense: Ejection from game, suspension from league, playoffs subject to penalty matrix.
 3. Derogatory comments or gestures towards officials, staff, other team's fans or players will not be tolerated at any time. Abusive verbal attacks upon any player, team staff, spectator, and manager, Game Official or City of El Paso Employee (s) will be cause for removal from the game. Player(s) will be automatically suspended for an additional five (5) weeks.
 1. Out-of-Sight and Out-of-Sound will be in effect for suspensions and ejections. Persons ejected must leave the field/park area within 3 minutes of being ejected or team will forfeit the game.
 4. Physical violence such as attacks on officials, City personnel, players, coaches and spectators, immediately proceeding, during or after games or confrontations will be punishable as per penalty matrix from any City of El Paso event. No player, team staff, spectator, or managers may lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike, or threaten to strike player(s), team staff, spectator(s), manager(s), Game Official(s) or City of El Paso Employee(s). Doing so is subject to discipline according to the penalty matrix.
 5. No team player(s), team staff, spectator(s), or manager(s) may "CLEAR THE BENCH" while a dispute/conflict/confrontation/fight or physical violence, is taking place. Doing so is subject to discipline as per penalty matrix. "Clear the Bench" is defined as leaving your team area adjacent to the playing area or leaving the spectator area. Leaving the bench to break up a fight is considered a violation of this rule.
 7. Only coaches, players and authorized persons will be allowed in designated team areas. COACHES will be expected to enforce this rule. City Staff is authorized to stop the game until said area is cleared or terminate the game.
 8. Air horns, whistles, amplified noise or any other device that interferes with the game will



Not be allowed.

CHEERLEADERS

1. **ALL CHEERLEADING PROBLEMS MUST BE HANDLED BY THE HEAD FOOTBALL COACH OF THE ORGANIZATION. WE WILL NOT HANDLE ANY PROBLEMS WITH CHEERLEADERS.** Cheerleaders will be positioned in the end zone closest to their team. This provides cheerleaders with more room to cheer. All Cheerleading coaches and trainers must have a current City of El Paso Parks and Recreation coaches background and ID.

X. YOUTH SPORTS COACHING / TEAM STAFF POLICY

1. All coaches/team staff (18 years and older) in any youth sport must submit and sign a "EPPARD Volunteer in Youth Sports Application Form". (This Form and Background Check must be updated every two (2) years.)
2. All coaches/team staff (18 years and older) must pay for and attend the coaching certification class and continue membership as long as they are a coach/team staff member.
3. All coaches/team staff (18 years and older) must attend a mandatory coaches meeting prior to each season.
4. All coaches/team staff (18 years and older) must sign a "EPPARD Volunteer in Youth Sports or Concessionaire Background Check Consent & Release Form" for a criminal background check. (This form must be updated every two years.) A coach/team staff is disqualified if the individual has a conviction of, imposition of a deferred sentence for, or any plea of guilty or no contest at any time past or present or the existence of any pending charges for:
 - a.) Any felony.
 - b.) If a coach/team staff has a misdemeanor conviction for crimes of a violent nature, such as assault, in the past 10 years, he/she will not be allowed to coach or be a team staff person.
 - c.) Any offense involving use, possession, distribution or intent to distribute illegal drugs or substances.
 - d.) Any crime involving sexual misconduct.
 - e.) Any crime involving violence or a violent act.
 - f.) Any crime involving alcohol.

THIS IS IN EFFECT REGARDLESS OF ADJUDICATION.

5. All coaches/team staff collecting money from players must provide either a detailed breakdown or a budget for the money received.
6. If the Sports Office receives three written complaints, regarding three separate individuals, concerning three different incidents, the coach/team staff may be subject to suspension.
7. All coaches/team staff are responsible for the maintenance of the facility/fields being used. All team areas are to be left clean, and all team materials are to be picked up after each practice or game. Failure to maintain facility/field could result in loss of that facility/field.
8. Applicant must allow for a copy of the **ORIGINAL STATE ISSUED ID** to be made when application is paid for.

XI. COACHES

1. There will be a maximum of eight (8) coaches allowed on the sideline during a game. There will be **NO SWITCHING** of coaches' through-out the game. Coaches who start the game must finish the game.
2. 1 designated medical staff with a background check and badge will be allowed on your sideline. The medical staff must be an EMT, doctor, nurse or otherwise cleared by the Parks Dept. The medical personnel will not be allowed to coach on the sidelines. If the medical staff is coaching, then he/she will be asked to move to the spectator sideline.
3. Coaches **MUST** have their teams report to the field supervisor prior to every game to be checked in.
4. Prior to each game the coach/manager must fill out the Line-Up Sheet with the child's first and last name and the correct jersey #.
5. **ALL COACHES MUST CLEAR THE BACKGROUND CHECK AND HAVE A COACHES BADGE** before they coach. If a coach does not have a coaching badge and continues to coach, he/she could be suspended for 1-3 years.
6. **ALL COACHES** and Medical staff **MUST** display their background check badges at all times.
7. Have all players and parents read and sign parent permission slips before the child plays.
8. Maintain control over players, parents, and spectators in all circumstances, including disputes on the field; referees will discuss disputes on the field with the coach only, players and parents are not to question a referee's call or rulings.
9. Each **TEAM STAFF MEMBER** is responsible for verifying the League game Schedule DAYS and TIMES and to inform the League Organizer and fellow team members of an error(s) found. The League/Tournament Organizer will correct the **ERROR(S)** and make new Schedules and inform the other teams.
10. Coaches, team staff, trainers and scorekeepers (individuals 17 years and older) must have a current City of El Paso Parks and Recreation coaches background and ID and understand the Youth Football Rules outlined here and in the N.C.A.A. Rules and Regulations, Team Rosters, Line-Up Sheets, Score sheets, Parent's Pledge sheet, and Parent Permission Slip sheet, **AT ANY TIME DURING THE GAME(S) the El Paso Parks and Recreation Sports staff will enforce this.**
11. Video Taping at City of El Paso Youth Football Games can only be done by the Parents of children in the game who have a valid Parent Card and by Pre-Approved Media Partners. Hired photographers and other people who do not



have children in the game will not be allowed to video tape. This rule is to protect the children from Predators or other people who do not have good intentions and to prevent Scouting in Youth Football. If an unauthorized person is found video taping the following will occur: Person will be asked to stop taping and to put his camera away. If the person still fails to follow the rules, then we will ask the photographer to leave the Park. If the person stays, we will call the police. Teams that are working in conjunction with unauthorized video use will be barred from the Playoffs and will forfeit the game in question. Coaches will be subject to a one to five year suspension.

XII. Penalty Matrix:

Infraction	Penalty
Engage in aggressive behavior that has resulted in physical violence against another player, game official, City of El Paso employee, game spectator, or program participant.	Immediate removal from the <i>game</i> or <i>facility</i> and suspension from facility or activity for a minimum of 1 year and up to 5 years.
Physically threaten a game official (umpire, referee, site supervisor), City of El Paso employee, or another player, spectator or program participant with intent to cause harm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sports League</i>: Suspension for a minimum of 2 games and up to 2 seasons. • <i>Recreation Facility/Park</i>: Trespass from the specific facility or program for a minimum of 2 operating days and up to 6 months.
Verbally abuse a game official (umpire, referee, site supervisor), City of El Paso employee, or another player, spectator or program participant with intent to cause harm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sports League</i>: Suspension for a minimum of 2 games and up to one season. • Trespass from the specific facility or program for a minimum of 2 operating days and up to 4 months.
Refusal to abide by a game official's or facility staff member's decision either with abusive and/or argumentative language or other forceful action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sports League</i>: Immediate removal from the game and suspension up to 6 games. • <i>Recreation Facility/Park</i>: Immediate removal from the facility for a minimum of 2 operating days and trespass from the facility or recreation program for up to 3 months.
Play illegally, or solicit another to play illegally.	Illegal player and/or coach to be removed from the game and suspended for a minimum of 1 season and up to 1 year. All games in which the illegal player played will be forfeited.
Appear upon the field of play or in a parks and recreation facility at any time in an intoxicated condition or to be in non-compliance with City ordinances which prohibit possession or consumption of alcohol in any City park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sports League</i>: Immediate removal from the game and suspension for 1 additional game. A police report will be filed. • <i>Recreation Facility/Park</i>: Immediate removal from the facility and trespassed from the program or facility for up to 1 month. A police report will be filed.

XIII. GAME OFFICIALS

Game officials will be assigned by City Parks & Recreation staff and **MUST** attend an official's clinic prior to each season.

VX. AWARDS

Regular Season: Team Trophies will be awarded to First place and Second place in Regular Season.

Playoffs: Team Trophies will be awarded for Playoffs Champion and Runner Up. Individual awards given for first place only

XV. APPEALS

You will have 48 business hours from receiving any suspensions to file an appeal in writing on decisions reached by the Nations Tobin Sports Center.

XVI. FIELD PERMITS

1. Are issued by Athletic Field Reservation Policy.

XVII. FEES

1. Parent class will be \$5.00 per family for live session and \$15 for Video session.
2. Registration fees will be (8 games season and Playoffs for top teams per division only)
 - \$600.00 for Mighty Mites, Minors and Intermediates Divisions (Officials fees included)
 - \$660.00 for Majors Division (Officials fees included).
3. IDs will be \$5.00 per picture.

RANDOM DATES

Meetings

Sunday July 13, 2014@ 11:00 am (Nations Tobin Center)



Wednesday July 16, 2014 @ 6:00 pm (Nations Tobin Center)
Sunday July 20, 2014 @ 11:00 am (Nations Tobin Center)
Wednesday July 23, 2014 @ 6:00 pm (Nations Tobin Center)

Deadline to register and have ALL FEES paid up in full at Nations Tobin Sports Center Only:
August 14, 2014 (Entry Fee paid in Full)

Season Starts

Aug.23, 2014 for Minors and Intermediates
Aug.24, 2014 for Majors and Mighty Mites

**Martin Chacon
Football Coordinator
Nations Tobin Sports Center
915-757-2743**

ALL IDs ARE \$5.00 PER PLAYER.

ID's are generated at both locations (Acosta Sports & Nations Tobin):
Monday through Friday 11:00am – 7:30pm

Video Classes
Monday through Friday 11:00am – 4:30pm
At Nations Tobin Sports Center
8831 Railroad Dr. (915) 757-2743

Weigh-Ins for Mighty Mites at Nations Tobin Only
Monday through Thursday 11am-7pm

PARENT CLASSES
The charge for the Live Class is \$5.00 per family.
The charge for the Video Class is \$15.00 per family.
See flyer for Live & Video Class dates and locations.

www.elpasotexas.gov/parks

www.quickscores.com/elpaso